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BEAMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1972



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STAFF - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health,
E. Eileen. Hodgson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Meat Inspector,
R. Pickford, M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspector,
D. Hayball, (Joint Appointment).

BEAMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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The Colliton Clinic,
Glyde Path Road,
Dorchester,
Dorset.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Beaminster Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1972. Since Local Government reorganisation is to take place on 1st April 1974 and both your Council and my statutory appointment with your Council are to be swept away, I propose to include in my report some of the work done by me during the first half of 1973.

Civilisations 3,000 years ago knew concern for the health of communities and advantages to good sanitation and Hippocrates, father of medicine, B.C. 460, lectured his students on Air, Water and Places, still the basic principles of public health.

The Romans invaded England in A.D.43 and they stayed for nearly 300 years. When they left, their fine houses, baths, water supplies, and engineered roads settled under the dust, so little had they impressed the natives of England.

Throughout the centuries appreciation of hygiene and prevention of disease advanced slowly until the 19th century, the era of the great social reformers and the time for urbanisation. In 1840 the forerunner of the Public Health Committee was convened, namely the 'Health of Towns Committee'. Edwin Chadwick in 1842 published a paper on the "Insanitary Conditions among the Labouring Population of Great Britain". This woke England's conscience and in 1847 the first Medical Officer of Health was appointed to Liverpool and the first Public Health Act appeared in 1848.

The history of Public Health Administration is complicated and piecemeal. Throughout the past 126 years the Medical Officer of Health has had varied duties and various employers. He has had statutory duties, clinical commitments and responsibilities under many different Acts, but above all, he has been the guardian of the overall health of the public, and has practised preventive medicine with unceasing vigilance. He has helped to make the killer epidemics of the past - e.g. Smallpox, Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis - almost unknown clinical entities.

Local Government is being re-organised once more - the growing population, social requirements and advanced technical knowledge of today require bigger working units of government who will most surely require more money to spend.

The Medical Officer of Health, the Town Hall Doctor as he is affectionately called in many places, is no longer considered necessary. Other disciplines have grown up ready to take over the many specialities that once made up his daily round. He is to join his colleagues from the hospital and family practitioner services as a member of the team of physicians working with the Health Board and he is to have a new name - "Public Health" as we have known for the doctor will disappear on 31st March 1974 to be replaced by "Community Medicine".

The population of Beaminster continues to rise although there were fewer births than deaths, while the death rate adjusted by the Area Comparability figure was lower than that of the National Average. Although Beaminster is not included in the Dorset County Council Health Department's 'Estimated Additional Summer Population for West Dorset District', it would appear that Beaminster Rural District has its fair share of additional day population during the summer months, since Beaminster Town and shops become busier at weekends and parking becomes a problem.

There have been no serious outbreaks of disease in the Rural District, although there have been minor occurrences throughout 1972/73. Infections are not always reported until it is too late to take samples to determine the cause and source of the infection. This was apparent in an outbreak of gastro-enteritis affecting a number of people resident in Beaminster who attended a lunch-time meeting in another district. The infection was possibly caused by a bacterium which would inflict a short and sharp illness, but since the matter was reported some days later by a victim 17 miles away and who had already recovered, the source could not be traced. An unhappy occurrence for a health department.

The bacteria Haemolytic Streptococci are found in man and animals and can invade the tissues of susceptible humans causing disease in many forms. Many of these, because of their power of Haemolysing blood, are called Haemolytic streptococci. They are very susceptible to treatment with antibiotics but occasionally there is a fatal case.

Samples of material from infected patients were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, seven were found to be positive for Haemolytic Streptococci, Group A. The number of samples sent to the Laboratory is not a fair estimate of the number of cases in the district since material is not always presented for examination.

Untreated cream and the packaging of cream remains a public health hazard. Cream is included in the definition of milk (Milk and Dairies General Regulations 1959) and therefore must be produced under hygienic conditions, but as there is no legislation dealing with licensing and statutory testing of cream, there are no penalties for failure. A working party on the 'Hygiene and Marketing of Fresh Cream' made their report in July 1970 to the Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service. They found untreated cream could contain many pathogenic bacteria, especially if prepared under unsuitable conditions or filled by hand into the cartons. These bacteria multiply by age and/or climatic conditions.

The Brucellosis Accredited Scheme moves forward slowly, much untreated milk is still sold and samples sometimes fail the ring test for Brucellosis. When this happens the farmers who hold Producers Licences co-operate with the Authorities dealing with Milk and Dairy Regulations and with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The whole business of unpasteurised milk is unsatisfactory from a public health point of view, however, untreated milk tastes sweeter to many people. Fortunately no cases of Brucellosis have been reported in humans this year, although since this disease can be insidious there may well be missed cases.

You will read in the report of bacteria occurring in animals which are pathogenic to man, these are notified to the Department by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. These cases are followed up and advice given to human contacts. There are over 150 types of Salmonella known to the Public Health Reference Laboratory. The types demonstrated here are fairly common, and cause gastro-enteritis in man. (The Salmonella, although a relation of Salmonella Typhoe, does not cause such systemic infection.) The reservoir of infection can be man, domestic or wild animals, and eggs. Symptomless carriers are the greatest potential danger. The salmonella is transmitted by contamination of certain foods, especially dairy produce, fowl, cold meats and unpasteurised milk.

Water supplies continue to be a problem in this district. Private supplies from shallow springs and wells being polluted by animal contamination, especially during the wet weather. Standards are laid down for non-chlorinated piped water supplies from Class I - excellent - to Class IV - Unsatisfactory. In this type of supply a few coliform areogermes may be permitted so long as there are no Bacteria Coli (E Coli) demonstrated. Generally owners co-operate in order to eradicate the pollution.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E. EILEEN HODGSON

Medical Officer of Health

LOCAL STATISTICS

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
Area (in acres)	59,890	59,890
Number of habitable houses	3,319	3,108
Population (mid year estimate 1972)	8,300	8,260
Rateable Value (As at 1st April 1972)	£210,503	£204,680
Sum represented by 1p Rate	£2,040	£1,980

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>1972</u>			<u>1971</u>		
	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Live Births (Registered)						
Live Births. Total	38	47	85	51	54	105
Legitimate	35	46	81	44	50	94
Illegitimate	3	1	4	7	4	11
Stillbirths Total	1	-	1	1	-	1
Legitimate	1	-	1	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1	-	1
Deaths (Registered)						
Total Deaths all ages	52	66	118	50	60	110
Deaths of infants under 1 year						
Legitimate	-	-	-	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks						
Legitimate	-	-	-	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of infants under 1 week						
Legitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-

In calculating birth and death rates area comparability factors are used. This is the figure given by the Registrar General to correct irregularities in the age and sex structure of the population and to take into account any high mortality due to the presence of residential institutions or other establishments in the local area.

The local crude rate is multiplied by the area comparability factor to give a rate comparable with other parts of the country.

The following figures show birth and death rates in comparison with the figures for England and Wales, that is the national figure.

	<u>1972</u>		<u>1971</u>	
	<u>Beaminster</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>Beaminster</u>	<u>England</u>
	<u>R.D.</u>	<u>& Wales</u>	<u>R.D.</u>	<u>& Wales</u>
Live Birth Rates				
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude Rate)	10.2	14.8	12.7	16.0
Area Comparability Factor	1.26	1.00	1.18	1.00
Local Adjusted Rate	12.9	14.8	15.0	16.0
Illegitimate live births as a percentage of the live births	5	9	10	8
Stillbirth Rates per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	12	12	9	12
Death Rate all ages				
Deaths per 1,000 population (Crude Rate)	14.2	12.1	13.3	11.6
Area Comparability factor	.76	1.00	.79	1.00
Local Adjusted Rate	10.8	12.1	10.5	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate				
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	-	17	19	18
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	17	21	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	21	-	24
Neonatal - deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	-	12	10	12
Early neonatal - deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births	-	10	-	10
Perinatal - stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	12	22	9	22

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

These show that although Deaths exceed Births, there were no deaths of infants under one year. When the Births and Deaths are considered as rates and the Area Comparability Factor is used, it can be seen that the Birth and Death Rates are lower than the average for England and Wales.

BIRTHS AND INFANTILE DEATHS

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Live Births	35	46	3	1	85
Stillbirths	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths under 4 weeks	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths under 1 week	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>CODE</u>		<u>1972</u>		<u>1971</u>	
		<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1	-	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	2	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	4	1	-
B19(5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	-	-	1	-
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	-	6	1
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	2	-	1
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	-	-	1
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	-	-	-
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	2	5	5
B20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1	-	-
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	-	-	-	1
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	4	-	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	-	-
B27	Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1	1
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	14	9	15	9
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	5	6	3	4
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	5	19	4	16
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	2	2	1
B31	Influenza	2	-	-	-
B32	Pneumonia	2	6	3	9
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	6	1	2	-
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	2	-	-
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1	1
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	-	-
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	-	-	2
B46(10)	Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	1	-	-
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	-	-	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies	-	-	1	-
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	1	1	-
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	1	1
BE48	All Other Accidents	-	1	1	2
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	-	-	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		52	66	50	60

Causes of Death

No person died under the age of 45 (ages not shown) in 1972, the greatest number occurring in the 75 and over group.

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE AGAINST WHICH ROUTINE IMMUNISATION IS OFFERED

Numbers occurring in the Rural District

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total 1972</u>	<u>Total 1971</u>
Measles	7	27
Pertussis	2	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tetanus	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-

The following table shows the number of immunisations carried out in Schools and Clinics during 1972 in the Rural District. I am indebted to the Department of the County Medical Officer of Health for these figures.

Poliomyelitis		Diphtheria		Tetanus		Whooping Cough		Measles	Rubella
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	P
78	185	77	90	79	12	75	172	62	3

P = Primary Course

R = Reinforcing Dose

Rubella

Rubella although not notifiable under the Infectious Disease Regulations 1968, is known to cause handicap in babies born to mothers who have contacted Rubella in the first three months of pregnancy. Therefore immunisation is offered to all girls in their 13th - 14th year.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1972:

Number of cases on register at 1st January	17
New cases notified during the year	-
Transfers into area during the year	-
	<hr/>
	17
Number recovered during the year	-
Number moved away in the year	-
Died	-
	<hr/>
Number remaining on 31st December	17
	<hr/>

B.C.G. Immunisation Against Tuberculosis (Bacille Calmette-Guerin)

The following table shows the number of immunisations given in the Rural District in 1972.

Number of children tested:	86
Number of children positive:	15
Number of children negative:	71
Number vaccinated:	77

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE AGAINST WHICH NO ROUTINE
IMMUNISATION IS OFFERED

Numbers occurring in the Rural District

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total 1972</u>	<u>Total 1971</u>
Dysentery	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Infective Jaundice	2	1
Acute Meningitis	-	-
Acute Encephalitis:		
Infective	-	-
Post Infectious	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-
Malaria	-	-
Plague	-	-
Cholera	-	-
Anthrax	-	-
Smallpox	-	-
Typhus Fever	-	-
Relapsing Fever	-	-
Yellow Fever	-	-
Scabies (by local byelaw)	1	-

Smallpox

Routine immunisation ceased on 15th November 1971 but general practitioners carry out immunisation when requested.

During 6th April 1973 to 13th May 1973, when London was declared an infected area, 4,257 doses were distributed to Dorset and of these 80 doses were sent to Beaminster doctors.

OTHER DISEASES AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Haemolytic Streptococci

Samples of material were presented at the Laboratory, seven of which proved to be positive for Haemolytic Streptococci and Erysipelas (Streptococcal Infection).

Impetigo

One case was reported in a school child.

Infestations

Nine cases of nits and lice were reported in school children and were treated by County Council nursing staff and General Practitioners.

Ringworm

Six families were affected by Ringworm and were treated by their General Practitioners.

Foot and Mouth Disease

A case of Foot and Mouth disease was reported to the Department in July 1973 in a school child. This was found to be a virus infection. The school swimming pool was examined but the chlorinated residue proved to show proper requirements. This is being observed throughout the holiday period. No further cases are expected.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Infectious Disease in animals is notified to the Department by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the organisms isolated being pathogenic to man.

1.	Salmonella Panama	..	..	..	..	1
2.	Salmonella Dublin	..	..	..	..	1
3.	Salmonella Typhimurium	..	..	..	..	3
4.	Salmonella Dugbe	..	..	..	..	1
5.	Salmonella Agama	..	..	..	..	1

Salmonella

There are over 150 types of Salmonella recorded in the Salmonella Reference Laboratory and they are poor relatives of the Salmonella Typhi and Paratyphi which cause Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever. They are intestinal pathogens of man and are transmitted in food. The greatest potential danger being the symptomless carrier who spreads bacteria without manifesting the disease.

Each case reported in animals is investigated by the Public Health Department and contacts of the animal are advised regarding hygienic measures required to stop the spread.

MILK

78 samples of milk from Dairies and Farms were examined in 1972, of these 3 failed the Methylene Blue Test and 7 failed the Ring Test for Brucella Abortus.

WATER

Mains Water

96 samples were taken by the Dorset Water Board from sources within the Rural District, none of which showed pollution.

Private Supplies

The Public Health Inspector's report contains a detailed account of the Private Water Supplies known in the Beaminster Rural District.

Bacteriological examination of drinking water

This is carried out to demonstrate the presence or otherwise of excretal pollution in the water. It is accepted that if organisms normally excreted by the intestine are not found in the water it is likely that pathogenic organisms are also absent.

Standards are laid down (class 1 to 4) for drinking water indicating the number of bacteria per 100 millilitre permissible in non-chlorinated piped supplies, although it is accepted that rural water supplies rarely equal class 1.

The presence of Bacillus Coli (1) (E Coli) in any water supply is indicative of faecal pollution and is unsatisfactory. The source of this pollution should be detected.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Two elderly women were visited to assess their need for removal to a place of safety. One agreed to go to a convalescent home, the other proved to be seriously ill. It was not necessary to continue with Section 47 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951 because the patient was unconscious at removal and later died in Dorset County Hospital.

HOUSING

Several visits were paid to residents of Beaminster Rural District in connection with housing on medical grounds and elderly persons accommodation.

ADULT HEALTH EDUCATION

Mr. Pickford, Public Health Inspector, has continued to take a keen interest in Adult Health Education and has had his booklet on Safe Food reprinted.

R E P O R T O F T H E
P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R
FOR THE YEAR
1971

I N T R O D U C T I O N

This will be the last Annual Report I shall make as Public Health Inspector to Beaminster Rural District Council and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Housing & Public Health Committee for their support and interest in the work I have endeavoured to do over the past four years. I would also like to express my gratitude to all members of the staff for the help and co-operation which has always been so readily forthcoming and particularly to my secretary whose efficiency has greatly contributed to the smooth running of the department. One can only hope that similar happy relationships may continue in the new West Dorset District Council.

The pressures of reorganisation have inevitably led to a reduction in the progress of some fields of work. Food premises and those registered under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act have not received as much attention as I would have liked and the intended course on hygiene for food handlers had to be deferred. The pressing need for a "house to house" survey of the district remains and there is a great deal of work to be done in relation to water supplies and unfit houses. It is earnestly hoped that the staff situation in the new West Dorset District Council will enable all these fields of work to be effectively pursued.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

The general standard of hygiene in food premises has been fairly satisfactory throughout the year although there have been a few cases where standards have fallen. A total of 242 visits were made to food premises and in 6 cases it became necessary to serve notice on the trader.

In April, a course was held on Hygiene for the Licensed Trade, consisting of 3 afternoon sessions. The total number of people attending was 24 but only 6 of these attended all 3 sessions. 15 Public Houses were represented out of a total of 33 in the district. Methods used included audience participation, practical demonstration, films, agar cultures and other visual aids. Those attending found the course enlightening and were more able to understand the legal requirements placed on them by the Food Hygiene Regulations. It is to be regretted that a higher percentage of publicans were not able to attend. The contents of the course have been set out in two booklets which I have prepared and these have been distributed to all licensed premises.

I feel there is a pressing need for a similar course for food handlers in shops and cafes and it was my intention to institute one during 1972. Unfortunately, increased pressure of work - mainly due to local government reorganisation - made this impossible. Early in 1973, I was invited to speak to classes at the Beaminster School. This is a valuable link in the health education field and one hopes that such talks may become a regular feature.

The Department's booklet "Safe Food - A guide for the housewife" has recently been reprinted and I have taken the opportunity to add a section on the use of Home Freezers which are increasing in popularity. Talks to women's organisations have continued during the year.

The following table shows the number of food premises in the District:-

TYPE OF PREMISES	NUMBER IN DISTRICT	NUMBER OF VISITS
General Provision	28	37
Licensed Premises with Meal Service	14	(14
Licensed Premises without Meal Service	20	(
Butchers	4	5
Bakers & Confectioners	3	12
Restaurants	4	7
Retail Cooked Foods	1	2
Greengrocers	1	1
Sweet Shops	4	4
Fried Fish Shops	1	2
Wet Fish Shops	1	1
Canteens	2	2
Dairies & Milk Distributors	12	10
Dried Milk Factory	1	1
Cider Manufacturer	1	1
Poultry Processing Stations	1	39
Abattoir	1	92
Street Vendors	8	8
Miscellaneous Food Visits		4
TOTAL	107	242

Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act

Sale of Ice Cream	50
Preparation of Sausages & Cooked Meats	4
Fish Friers	1

CREAM

During 1972, a programme of cream sampling was commenced following the advice given in Ministry of Agriculture Circular FSH 2/71. This circular recommends the use of the methylene blue test as a screening test for the examination of the hygienic quality of fresh cream. It is stressed that it should remain a screening or advisory test and have no penal function. Out of a total of 26 samples, only 9 gave a satisfactory result. The samples were collected from retail shops and also from a local dairy where cream is processed and packed. Details are given in the following tables:-

(a). Samples collected from Processing Dairy (Local Producer)

Type	Satisfactory	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Total Samples
Pasteurised Double Cream	Nil	1	2	3
Clotted Cream	2	1	1	4

(bi). Samples collected from Retail Shops (Source - Local Producer)

Type	Satisfactory	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Total Samples
Pasteurised Double Cream	Nil	Nil	5	5
Clotted Cream	1	1	1	3

(bii). Samples collected from Retail Shops (Source - National Producer)

Type	Satisfactory	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Total Samples
Pasteurised Double Cream	1	Nil	5	6
Clotted Cream	Nil	2	3	5

The high proportion of unsatisfactory samples was discussed with Dr. Tee, Director of Dorchester Public Health Laboratory, who expressed the opinion that failures in the methylene blue test were not necessarily indicative of poor hygiene, and because of certain anomalies, he did not advocate such examination of retail samples. In view of this, the collection of retail samples has been discontinued but sampling at the producer's dairy is to be continued.

Hygiene at the dairy has been discussed with the proprietor and an "on the spot" hygiene talk has been given to the staff.

The control and heat treatment of milk is governed by the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963 which requires all milk to be either heat treated or to come from attested herds and bottled at the farm.

There are at the present time no similar regulations governing cream production and in my opinion, legislation is long overdue.

WATERCRESS

There are two commercial watercress beds in this district, situated at Hooke and Benville, Corscombe. Both beds are inspected periodically and 4 water samples were collected from them during 1972. The results indicated that faecal organisms were present in the water supply to both beds and although contaminated water has not been shown to be a major hazard in relation to watercress, it would seem rational to have water of as good bacteriological quality as possible entering the beds. Consequently, the matter was taken up with the proprietors. In the case of the Hooke beds, commercial use has at present been discontinued and the situation will be kept under observation. At Benville, the water supply comes from a nearby spring and a sample taken at the spring has shown the source to be free of pollution. It is reasonable to presume that pollution enters the stream en route to the beds and the proprietor has agreed to pipe the water from the spring to the beds.

A more serious hazard can occur from snails infested with liver fluke (*FASCIOLA HEPATICA*) - contaminated watercress can give rise to human infestation. Infested snails can enter beds from adjacent meadows and it is important that watercress beds should be protected by proper surrounds. Such protection was not considered to be satisfactory at Benville but on my advice, this situation has now been remedied.

DATE MARKING OF FOOD

The campaign for date marking of food took a step forward when the Food Standards Committee Report was published in July, 1972.

The Committee recommend that the date marking of many articles of food should be made compulsory. Growing public concern about the sale of stale food has undoubtedly made some impression on the Committee.

The Food Standards Committee recommend that prepacked short life foods should be marked with a "sell-by" date. For Long life foods the Committee recommend a date of manufacture or of prepacking. Regulations should come into effect in 1975 to allow a period for full discussion of the detailed proposals. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food invited comments on the report by October, 1972, and when he has considered them, will decide on the action to be taken.

I would point out that it is highly desirable that any such legislation should be enforceable by district councils as part of their functions in relation to food safety and hygiene.

BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION

The compulsory eradication of brucellosis, with full compulsory slaughter powers, started in the initial eradication areas in Great Britain on 1st November, 1972. The first Brucellosis Order applies to the areas of South Wales, Isle of Wight and Westmorland. During 1973, compulsory eradication schemes will be introduced in North Lancashire, other parts of Wales, Norfolk, Suffolk and West Sussex.

POULTRY INSPECTION

I have had cause to mention in previous annual reports that the poultry slaughterhouse in this district must be considered unsatisfactory. The main defects lie in the structure and layout of the premises and a major reconstruction scheme is the only remedy.

The owner of the premises has expressed his intention of carrying out improvements on more than one occasion during the past two years but no progress has been made. The situation is now complicated by the anticipated new legislation governing poultry slaughterhouses required under the E.E.C. Directive. Because of this, it did not seem appropriate to press for major structural alterations until the new legal requirements are known.

The nature of the trade at this establishment has also changed during the year, the number of Hens and Capons killed has fallen by some 40% and the number of Turkeys killed has increased by about 350%. Figures for 1972 are as follows:-

Number of Hens & Capons killed	--	148,343
Number of Turkeys killed	-	18,631
Number of Hens & Capons condemned	-	3,673 (13,324 lbs.)
Number of Turkeys condemned	-	40 (750 lbs.)
% Condemned	-	2.2%
Number of visits made	-	39

Inspection of birds is carried out by members of the proprietor's staff but as a large proportion of the birds killed are uneviscerated, efficient inspection is not possible. It is understood that this practice will not be allowed under the E.E.C. Directive.

The E.E.C. Directive will have far reaching consequences for poultry slaughterhouses and for the local authorities in whose districts such establishments are located. Ministry of Agriculture Circular FSH 1/73, issued on 29th January, 1973, draws attention to these changes.

The Domestic Market will be subject to the Directive from 15th February, 1976, and the Minister will be making appropriate Regulations. Poultry slaughterhouses will have to be approved and supervised by veterinarians and local authorities will need to employ veterinary supervisors and trained assistants to ensure that each bird and the procedure involved meet the standards laid down. It is intended that the staff costs incurred shall be recoverable from the slaughterhouse concerned. Details of this procedure will be announced as soon as possible.

Training of Assistants will have to be arranged and the E.E.C. Directive requires three months training. A syllabus of training is under consideration. The Ministry estimate 4 or 5 Assistants for a throughput of 4,000 broilers per hour. Ultimately, all poultry slaughterhouses will have to be registered.

The new West Dorset District Council will have to give early consideration to these implications.

MEAT INSPECTION

There is one private slaughterhouse in the district at which meat inspection is carried out twice weekly. Standards of hygiene continue to be satisfactory.

Meat Inspection Statistics

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Number killed	49	3	229	276	557
Number inspected	49	3	229	276	557
<u>Offal Condemned (All Diseases)</u>					
Livers	4	-	9	9	22
Part Livers	6	-	1	-	7
Lungs	-	-	1	71	72
Plucks	-	-	-	2	2
Heads	5	-	-	23	28
Hearts	3	-	-	8	11
Skirts	3	-	-	-	3
Mesentery & Intestines	-	-	-	7	7
Spleens	-	-	-	1	1
<u>Meat Condemned</u>					
Part Flank	-	-	-	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Offal Condemned - Pigs 23 Heads.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Offal Condemned - Cattle 3 Heads, Hearts & Skirts.

UN SOUND FOOD

The following quantities of unsound food were surrendered during 1972:-

Canned Meats - 11 lbs.

Frozen Foods - 109 lbs.

There was one complaint of unsound food during the year concerning the sale of clotted cream which was sour and affected with mould.

Investigations revealed that the cream was 14 days old when sold.

The Housing & Public Health Committee resolved not to prosecute but issued a strong warning to the vendor. This case illustrates the need for date marking.

KNACKER'S YARD

As in previous years, it became necessary to draw the owner's attention to contraventions of the byelaws governing knackers' yards. This again resulted in some improvement but the need for regular surveillance continues.

In my Annual Report for 1971, I reported the fact that the Meat (Sterilization) Regulations 1969 were not being complied with when raw meat and offal was collected from the knacker's yard by Messrs. Springfields of Bristol. As this involved a large company who collect meat and offal over a wide area, I discussed the difficulties with the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture. Enquiries followed at the Bristol end and I was eventually advised that the Ministry had agreed to allow the company 12 months to make the necessary alterations to its vehicles and equipment. Consequently, no further action has been taken in this respect.

HOUSING

During 1972, the Department of the Environment issued Circular 50/72 asking local authorities for information on the condition of housing stock in the district. Included in the questionnaire was a request for statistics relating to the number of unfit dwellings and those dwellings falling below the 12 point standard (the standard applied to Improvement Grants).

Such information can only be obtained by a 'house to house' survey and it is very many years since such a survey was conducted in this district. Consequently, no reliable statistics were available and estimates had to be made based purely on guesswork. The following figures, arrived at on such a basis, were supplied to the Department of the Environment:-

Estimates of Condition of Housing Stock in mid-1972	Number of dwellings	
<u>Unfit Dwellings</u>	Owned by Local Authority	Other Ownership
In clearance areas already declared	NIL	NIL
In clearance areas to be declared	NIL	NIL
Not in clearance areas	NIL	84
<u>Dwellings not unfit</u>		
Up to 12 point standard	516	1771
Capable of improvement to 12 point standard	11	900
Not capable of improvement to 12 point standard	NIL	?
Total dwellings in the area	527	2755

Circular 50/72 further stated that it was the Government's wish that all unfit houses should be dealt with in the next decade. In order to achieve this with any degree of certainty, the new West Dorset District Council will have to give serious consideration to an early 'house to house' survey in this district so that a work programme may be laid down and properly monitored.

Individual unfit houses have been dealt with as and when they came to notice. The following 6 dwellings were the subject of formal action under the Housing Act 1957 during 1972:-

Hillside Cottage, Marshwood	- Undertaking to make fit. (Property now rendered fit).
Rose Cottage, Norway Lane, Stoke Abbott	- Undertaking not to use for habitation.
18 Merrylands, Corscombe	- Undertaking not to use for habitation. (Tenant awaits rehousing).
2 Yeovil Road, Melbury Osmond	- Closing Order. (Tenant awaits rehousing).
3 Yeovil Road, Melbury Osmond	- Closing Order.
Way Farm Cottage, Netherbury	- Closing Order. (Tenant awaits rehousing).

It will be noted from the above that 3 tenants await rehousing.

- At the time of compiling this report there is a total of 6 tenants in unfit properties awaiting rehousing. If the condemnation of unfit properties proceeds at the rate of 10 dwellings per annum, this waiting list is going to increase. Priority in rehousing occupants of condemned property is an urgent matter. During 1972, one person was rehoused from an unfit property.

Unfit Dwellings made fit

Where unfit dwellings are dealt with formally under the Housing Act, 1957, it is becoming increasingly common for the owner to undertake renovation with the aid of an Improvement Grant. Consequently, very few dwellings ever reach the demolition stage. During 1972, only one house was actually demolished (1 Sheerings Cross, Thorncombe). In other cases, such houses were made fit voluntarily before any formal action was taken. During 1972, 12 houses considered to be unfit were rendered fit.

Improvement Grants

The number of grant applications continues to rise and this sphere of work has continued to occupy a considerable proportion of the department's time. The majority of schemes now cost in excess of £2000 and in all but 11 applications, the maximum grant of £1000 was approved. 191 visits were made during the year in connection with grant applications.

		<u>1972</u>	<u>(1971)</u>
<u>Improvement Grants</u>	Applications received	56	(53)
	Applications approved	58	(53)
<u>Standard Grants</u>	Applications received	12	(11)
	Applications approved	11	(9)

Improvement Notices

Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964 provides the only compulsory powers which local authorities can exercise to require the provision of standard amenities. However, such action can only be taken if the tenant complains to the Council in writing. The majority of tenants appear to be either unaware of their rights or are reluctant to take such action and no representations were received during 1972.

Qualification Certificates

The owner of a dwelling let under a "controlled" tenancy may apply to the Council for a Qualification Certificate if he considers that the dwelling possesses all 5 standard amenities, is in a good state of repair and is fit in all other respects for human habitation. On the issue of such a certificate, the controlled tenancy becomes a "regulated" one and the owner may then apply to the Rent Officer for the registration of a fair rent.

In the case of a house occupied under a "controlled" tenancy, which lacks any of the standard amenities, the owner can apply for a Certificate of Provisional Approval if he submits satisfactory proposals to provide the missing amenities. Upon completion of the works, a Qualification Certificate is issued and the tenancy becomes a "regulated" one.
(N.B. A "controlled" tenancy is one which existed before 6th July, 1957).

a). Dwellings already provided with standard amenities

No. of applications received	-	2
No. of Qualification Certificates granted	-	NIL
No. refused	-	2

b). Dwellings to be provided with standard amenities

No. of applications received	-	NIL
No. of Certificates of Provisional Approval granted	-	NIL
No. of Qualification Certificates granted	1	(Certif. of Prov. Approval previously issued in 1971)
No. refused	-	NIL

WATER SUPPLIES

With approximately one-third of the dwellings in the district lacking a mains water supply, the surveillance of water supplies remains a very important duty of the Public Health Department. Some twelve months ago it became possible - through the Dorset County Council computer - to obtain a complete list of all properties not connected to the mains supply (a total of 1052 dwellings). This information forms the basis for a programme of systematic sampling, to be followed by appropriate action to secure the provision of a wholesome supply to every dwelling - an extremely important objective. Unfortunately, in order to achieve this over a period of twelve months would require an average of 20 samples a week to be collected. This, together with the necessary follow up work, would create a considerable work load which is quite impracticable under present circumstances. One hopes that the anticipated increase in staff efficiency to be gained from Local Government Reorganisation may make such a programme possible.

During 1972, a total of 143 water samples were collected (27 more than the previous year). Of these, 13 samples were taken from main supplies and all proved satisfactory. There were 81 unsatisfactory samples - these were from 16 sources serving a total of 47 dwellings. A sample is considered unsatisfactory if it contains ESCH. COLI (type 1) which is indicative of faecal pollution. It is generally necessary to take a series of samples from any one source before a true picture can be obtained.

Details of the polluted supplies dealt with during 1972 are as follows:-

Rose Cottage, Loscombe	Property vacated and offered for sale.
Wytherston Farm	Investigations still proceeding at end of 1972. See separate report following.
Manor Farm, Wraxall	Supply now satisfactory.
Powerstock Vicarage	Supply now satisfactory. (Filter installed).
Beers Cottage, Rampisham	Alternative supply installed.
Benville Bridge Farm, Corscombe	Investigations and modifications in progress at end of 1972. Temporary supply of wholesome water in containers provided for use in the Public House.
Talbot Arms, Corscombe	
Woodridings, West Milton	Mains supply installed.
Townsend Farm Cottage, Powerstock	Property unoccupied. Renovation being considered.
Mapperton Estate	See separate report following.
North & South Poorton properties	See separate report following.

Wytherston Estate Supply

The unsatisfactory condition of this supply was discovered during investigations of the Poorton Supplies, two properties in South Poorton receiving water from this source. There are 4 dwellings on the Wytherston estate served by it.

The owner was informed and steps were taken to clean out the reservoir. This failed to remedy the pollution and a detailed survey of the system was then carried out. The source is a land spring situated in a field which is used for grazing cattle. Numerous samples over a period of several months were collected from different points in the system and these revealed a fairly persistent pollution at the spring except during the months of February and March. This involved a total of 22 samples.

It appeared likely that the exclusion of cattle from the field could affect an improvement and this was suggested to the owner towards the end of the year.

Mapperton Estate

This supply serves 11 dwellings. A detailed survey of the system was carried out and revealed that the water was polluted at source. 12 samples were taken during the investigation. As a result, the owner decided to instal filters at all the dwellings concerned. In order to achieve satisfactory operation of the filters, an increase in pressure proved necessary and a new reservoir at a higher level was constructed. Early in 1973, filters were fitted to all the dwellings.

North & South Poorton

At the end of 1971, a petition was received signed by 8 householders in the Poorton area, requesting that a mains water supply be provided to the area. A local authority may require the water authority to provide a mains supply under Section 36 of the Water Act 1945, providing they make good the difference between the water rate obtainable and ¹/₈th the cost of providing a mains supply for a period of 12 years.

On receipt of the petition, a sampling programme was immediately commenced and during the year, 39 samples were obtained. The results revealed that out of 10 supplies serving 19 properties, 7 sources serving 16 dwellings were polluted by faecal type organisms.

The matter was discussed in great detail by the Housing & Public Health Committee on several occasions during the year and meetings were held with the owners of the Poorton properties and also with representatives of the Dorset Water Board, the Area Planning Officer, the Mappercombe estate and the parish councils of North Poorton and Powerstock. At one of these meetings the possibility of linking a scheme with Powerstock was considered but this was found to be not feasible.

In May, the Dorset Water Board submitted an estimate for providing a mains supply to North and South Poorton and the annual deficiency payment to be met by this Council was estimated at £1400 per annum. At a later date, a survey was carried out by the Dorset Water Board, as a result of which the estimated deficiency payment was increased to £2,210.

From these later figures it was estimated that the actual cost per property would be £1500. The Rural Water Supplies Acts consider a figure of £380 per property to be the limit of economic spending for the provision of first time supplies to rural properties. On this basis, the scheme is not economically viable.

At the time of compiling this report, the Housing & Public Health Committee had these later figures under consideration and it was expected that a final decision would shortly be made. If the request for a mains supply is decided against, it will be necessary to consider what action should be taken to ensure the provision of a wholesome water supply to those dwellings where the supply is at present polluted. The local authority have power under the Public Health Act 1936 to require owners of dwellings to provide an adequate and wholesome supply of water and serious consideration will have to be given to such action, particularly in the case of tenanted properties.

Melbury Osmond

In my last two annual reports I had to report the fact that this supply which serves 70 dwellings, was very unsatisfactory. It therefore gives me great pleasure to be able to report that this supply has now been rendered satisfactory by the construction of a reservoir at the source.

It will be seen from this report that there has been considerable activity in the field of water supplies, the subject having been given a degree of priority in the Health Department's programme for 1972. Much still remains to be done, as will be seen from the following table listing the number of properties still without a mains water supply.

The following table indicates the number of dwellings in each parish with and without a mains water supply. Those parishes completely lacking a mains supply are underlined.

Parish	Estimated Population (1961 Census)	No. of Dwellings as at 31/12/72	Dwellings supplied from Public Mains	Dwellings NOT supplied from Public Mains
Beamminster	2,000	945	897	48
Bettiscombe	78	28	15	13
Broadwindsor	919	413	312	101
Burstock	96	39	26	13
Chedington	97	37	30	7
Chelborough East	69	18	10	8
<u>Chelborough West</u>	29	12	NIL	12
Corscombe	301	127	82	45
Evershot	258	85	NIL	85
Halstock	339	136	118	18
Hooke	119	34	24	10
<u>Mapperton</u>	21	10	NIL	10
<u>Marshwood</u>	303	114	73	41
<u>Melbury Osmond</u>	251	79	NIL	79
<u>Melbury Sampford</u>	50	10	NIL	10
Mosterton	177	88	75	13
Netherbury	1,072	435	293	142
South Perrott	155	64	58	6
<u>Pilsdon</u>	44	7	NIL	7
Powerstock	440	180	33	147
<u>North Poorton</u>	22	9	NIL	9
<u>Rampisham</u>	151	57	NIL	57
Seaborough	52	22	11	11
Stoke Abbott	355	100	64	36
Thorncombe	743	248	146	102
<u>Wraxall</u>	69	22	NIL	22
TOTALS	8,210	3,319	2,267	1,052

ESTIMATED POPULATION

(1971)

8,260

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OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

During 1970/71, a comprehensive programme of general inspections was carried out, thus all registered premises received a complete inspection over the two year period. In view of this it was decided to give this subject a low priority in 1972, the intention being to raise the priority in 1973 when all premises would again receive a complete inspection.

10 visits were made during the year, contraventions being found in only one premises. These were as follows:-

Section 6 - Temperature

Section 8 - Lighting

Section 16 - Floors

Section 24 - First Aid

REGISTRATION & GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of premises registered at the end of the year	No. of premises receiving a detailed inspection
Offices	1	12	1
Retail Shops	2	21	2
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	NIL	NIL	NIL
Catering Establishments open to the public	NIL	2	NIL
Canteens	NIL	1	NIL
Fuel Storage Depots	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTALS	3	36	3

Analysis by workplace of persons employed
in registered premises at end of year

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	42
Retail Shops	77
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	NIL
Catering Establishments open to public	11
Canteens	2
Fuel Storage Depots	NIL
TOTAL	132

Total Males - 56; Total Females - 76.

ACCIDENTS

No accidents were reported from registered premises during 1972.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

AS REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT

Part 1 of the Act

- 1). Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	1	1	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	22	17	2	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Outworkers premises).	1	2	NIL	NIL

2). Cases in which Defects were found:-

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
c).Not separate for sexes.	1	1	-	1	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	1	-

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork (Sections 133 & 134)

No outworkers were notified in the August list required by Section 133 and there has been no evidence of cases of default in sending lists to this Council. There have been no prosecutions for failure to supply lists. No instances of work in unwholesome premises arose for action under Section 134.

PEST CONTROL

Rodents

The treatment of rodent infestations is carried out on behalf of the Council by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee. A free service is provided for domestic premises but a charge of 75p per hour is charged for business premises. Farms are treated on an hourly basis or on contract. The number of complaints received and treatments carried out are given in the following table:-

	1972	1971
Number of complaints received	114	117
<u>Treatments carried out</u>		
a). Private Premises	135	114
b). Business Premises	2	2
c). Local Authority Premises	27	25
d). Farms	215	154
Total number of treatments	379	295
Total number of visits made	1107	1150

Sewers were test baited in the following parishes:-

Thorncombe, Salwayash, Broadwindsor, Powerstock, Nettlecombe, Corscombe, Chedington and Beaminster. Infestations were found at Powerstock and Beaminster and eradication treatment was carried out.

Other Pests

Complaints were received as follows:-

Cockroaches	-	3
Ants	-	3
Fleas	-	3
Wasps	-	2
Bees	-	1
Flies	-	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	-	<u>13</u>

Treatment was carried out or advice given in each case.

It has been the policy of the department to treat for pests where this can be achieved by simple spray or fumigation treatment. Limitations on staff and equipment do not permit more extensive treatments to be carried out and the complainant in such cases is referred to a pest control company. Complaints of bats and moles are instances where direct assistance could not be given. There is undoubtedly a demand for a more comprehensive service and the opportunity to expand it should be considered when the new West Dorset District Council comes into being.

NUISANCES

During 1972 a total of 142 complaints were received and dealt with by the department. Details are as follows:-

Rodent infestations	98
Pests other than rodents	11
Noise	9
Offensive accumulations	5
Polluted water courses	6
Septic tanks	4
Offensive practices	2
Mouldy food	1
No milk supply to village	1
Nuisance from agricultural machinery	1
Dirty premises	1
Overcrowding	1
Dampness in dwelling	1
Discoloured water supply	1

NOISE

3 noise nuisances were reported during 1972. The first related to a compressor at a factory at 7 Church Street, Beaminster, about which 3 residents complained. Discussions took place with the owner which resulted in a more efficient silencer being fitted and the machinery being screened. The noise level was considerably reduced although one complainant was still not satisfied. After additional noise observations were carried out it was decided that no further action could be justified.

The second complaint concerned the barking of dogs at an animal boarding establishment in South Perrott. Complaints were made on two different occasions during the year by a nearby resident. It was alleged that barking occurred at all hours of the day and night and a long list of dates and times when the nuisance occurred was submitted by the complainant. The nuisance was reported to the Housing & Public Health Committee who decided to take no action, the view being taken that the complainant should take her own action at Common Law.

The third noise nuisance arose from a house in Beaminster occupied by "hippies". There were complaints from 4 residents of loud music, banging and noisy vehicles late at night. This nuisance was reported to the Housing & Public Health Committee and a Noise Abatement notice was served on the tenant of the house. Shortly afterwards the nuisance was abated by the property being vacated.

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

There are no large caravan sites in the district but at the end of the year there were 14 site licences in force, all in respect of single caravan sites. The revised site licence conditions approved in 1971 are applied as licences become renewable.

In addition to the licensed sites aforementioned there are also caravan sites, exempted from the licensing requirements, which are under the control of organisations exempted by the Minister. These sites are certified by such organisations as the Caravan Club and the Camping Club of Great Britain and are limited to 5 caravans at any one time. In 1972 there were 15 such exempted sites in this district. The local authority has no power of control over the sites but can make application to the Minister for the withdrawal of the exemption in any particular case if circumstances justify such action. I visited all the exempted sites in this district during the summer of 1972 and found no cause for complaint.

44 visits were made to caravan sites during 1972.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

This is an Act to regulate the keeping of animal boarding establishments and two such premises are licensed by this authority.

One of the premises failed to maintain satisfactory standards regarding the structure of the pens and it became necessary to serve notice on the owner. Improvements have been slow to achieve and at the time of compiling this report, some items were still outstanding. The same premises have been the cause of a noise nuisance referred to under the section on noise.

The second premises confine boarding to cats only and a very high standard is maintained. The premises could well be referred to as a 4 star cat hotel.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 & 1936

41 licences for the storage of Petroleum Spirit were issued during 1972. No comprehensive inspections were carried out. The administration of these regulations will pass to the new Dorset County Council in April, 1974.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

Numerous complaints of drainage nuisance continue to be received. The majority refer to septic tanks which fail to function satisfactorily and I think there would be some merit in requiring percolation tests to be carried out before new septic tanks are approved. To remedy unsatisfactory sewage disposal in clay soils always proves to be exceedingly difficult.

Particular difficulty has been experienced in the Marshwood area and some consideration should be given to the provision of main sewerage in this locality.

The following report has kindly been supplied by the Engineer & Surveyor:-

Netherbury

Construction of the Netherbury village sewerage scheme was completed and connection of properties was well advanced by the year end.

Stoke Abbott

The sewage treatment works was commissioned in September and nearly all the properties in the village were discharging to the new sewers by the close of the year.

Drimpton

The detailed scheme for Drimpton village sewerage and sewage treatment works was prepared and at the close of the year a tender for construction had been accepted ready for an early start in the new year.

Halstock

A proposal to pump sewage from Halstock and the surrounding area to a combined works to be constructed by Yeovil R.D.C. at Hardington Mandeville in Somerset had to be abandoned due to opposition from the Somerset River Authority. An alternative scheme to pump the sewage to the Yeovil Borough Council's sewers for treatment at the enlarged Pen Mill Sewage Works is now under consideration.

Evershot.

A start was made on the preparation of a scheme to provide a sewage treatment works for the village of Evershot which will also provide extensions of the existing village sewer to include properties in Back Lane and the area of The Common.

Melbury Osmond

Agreement in principle was reached with Sherborne R.D.C. to make provision in the enlarged Thornford Sewage Treatment works for sewage from Melbury Osmond village.

The draft scheme which must await improved water supplies to the village, provides for separate foul sewerage with a pumping station and pumping main discharging to the proposed sewers in Chetnole.

Future Schemes

Provision was made, on information supplied in connection with the reorganisation of water and sewage services, for schemes to serve the villages of West Milton, Melplash and Rampisham.

Cesspool Emptying Service

A free cesspool and septic tank emptying service is provided by the Council.

The service is operated by a contractor and is limited to domestic premises where a main sewer is not available, and one collection per year of cesspool contents up to a maximum of 800 gallons for each dwelling.

The service was introduced in 1970 and in 1971 the number of applications received increased by 24% to 343. This year the increased use continued, 385 applications being received, which represents an increase over 1971 of approximately 12%.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Domestic Refuse Collection

There is a fortnightly kerbside collection confined generally to public highways for the whole of the district except Beaminster which has weekly collections.

46 new dwellings were occupied during the year which increased the total number of domestic premises using the service to about 3,092.

Litter Bins

24 Litter Bins are provided by the Dorset County Council at lay-bys on classified roads and these are emptied during the normal domestic refuse collection.

52 Litter Bins are provided by the Council at various sites within the district and these are emptied either weekly or fortnightly during domestic refuse collection.

Street Cleansing

The Council operate a partial street-cleansing service which is confined to the immediate area of The Square, Beaminster, and was restricted throughout the year to three man-hours per week.

COUNCIL HOUSES

The following report has kindly been provided by the Engineer & Surveyor:-

12 two bedroom aged persons bungalows were completed during the year, 6 at Beaminster and 6 at Thorncombe, making the total of dwellings built by the Local Authority since the war 450, including 85 bungalows and 66 flats.

The distribution by parishes is as follows:-

Beaminster.....	238
(Fairfield 32; Hogshill Mead 39; Gerrards Green 97; Pimlico 3; Woodswater Lane 5; Fleet Street 7; Pattle 20; St. Mary's Gardens 29; Willow Grove 6)	
Broadwindsor.....	54
(Village 44; Drimpton 10)	
Burstock.....	4
Corscombe.....	7
Evershot.....	4
Halstock.....	17
Marshwood.....	8
Mosterton.....	8
Melbury Osmond.....	4
Netherbury.....	50
(Village 24; North Bowood 4; Salwayash 14; Melplash 8)	
South Perrott.....	14
Powerstock (West Milton).....	4
Rampisham.....	4
Stoke Abbott.....	4
Thorncombe.....	30

